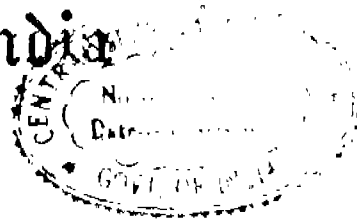


The Gazette of India



EXTRAORDINARY

PART II—Section 2

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 31] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1956

LOK SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on the 27th July, 1956:—

BILL No. 37 OF 1956

A Bill to provide for the registration and licensing of Sadhus and Sanyasis in India.

Enacted by Parliament in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sadhus and Sanyasis (Registration and Licensing) Act, 1956.

Short title
extent and
commence-
ment.

5 (2) It extends to whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires,—

Definitions.

10 (1) "licensing authority" means the District Magistrate for the area in which the *sadhu* or *sanyasi* resides at the time of his initiation.

(2) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by the licensing authority.

15 (3) "*sadhu*" or "*sanyasi*" includes a person who professes to belong to any religious institution or order or *Mutt* established or maintained for the preservation and promotion of the tenets or traditions of any Hindu religious denomination or any section thereof.

Registration
of *sadhus*
and *sanyasis*.

3. (1) Nobody shall style or proclaim himself as a *sadhu* or *sanyasi* unless he is duly registered and has obtained on application, licence from the licensing authority.

(2) Any person on becoming a *sadhu* or a *sanyasi* shall immediately get himself registered before the licensing authority and obtain a licence. 5

(3) Every licensing authority shall maintain a register in the prescribed form setting forth the following particulars concerning the *sadhu* or *sanyasi*:

(a) his name before and after initiation; 10

(b) his age, sex and religion;

(c) his place of domicile;

(d) his occupation and means of livelihood before and after initiation;

(e) place and date of his initiation; and 15

(f) name of the institution, order or *Mutt* to which he belongs after his initiation.

(4) The licensing authority shall publish annually a list of all *sadhus* and *sanyasis* in such manner as may be prescribed.

Application
for obtaining
licence.

4. (1) An application for registration as a *sadhu* or *sanyasi* for obtaining a licence under section 3 shall be made in writing to the licensing authority in such form and containing such particulars as may be prescribed. 20

(2) On receipt of an application made under sub-section (1), the licensing authority may, after making such inquiry as may be considered necessary, grant a licence in the prescribed form, subject to such terms and conditions as it may think fit to impose. The licensing authority may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, refuse to grant the licence to any person. 25

(3) A licence granted under sub-section (2) shall remain in force for ten years unless it is renewed, suspended, or cancelled by the licensing authority. The licensing authority may suspend or cancel a licence if it is satisfied that the *sadhu* or *sanyasi* is living an immoral life or indulges in such activities as are dangerous to peace, or is no longer a member of any religious institution or order or *Mutt* to which he belongs. 30 35

5. (1) Any person, or a *sadhu*, or a *sanyasi* who contravenes, or **Penalty**
abets the contravention of the provisions of section 3 and 4 shall be
punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, and
imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with
5 both.

(2) Any *sadhu* or *sanyasi* who contravenes any of the terms and
conditions of licence granted under the provisions of this Act shall
be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees,
in addition to the cancellation of his licence.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In our country the number of *sadhus* and *sanyasis* is increasing day by day. In the guise of saintly order most of them indulge in vices, begging and other anti-social acts, which is undesirable and which, if not checked, will help the crime incidence to increase unabated.

The Bill will in the first instance help to have their exact number by maintaining an all-India Register.

It will also save the saintly order from infamy and unnecessary exploitation. It will also help Government in the detection of many crimes in which so-called *sadhus* or *sanyasis* have a hand.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
The 21st April, 1956.

RADHA RAMAN.

—
M. N. KAUL,
Secretary.